



Six become Department's newest lieutenants

Director Dennis Garrett introduced six new lieutenants to a crowd of more than 150 people attending promotional ceremonies April 20 at DPS state headquarters in Phoenix.

Receiving promotions to lieutenant were former sergeants R. Brant Benham, Del Blunk, Dansen Coleman, Kelly Heape, Jack P. Hegarty and Larry Perry.

Benham, who with his promotion will become District 8 commander in Tucson, began his DPS career in November 1990 as an officer trainee assigned to District 1, Kingman. Later, as a trainee, he transferred to Phoenix.

In June 1992, the Phoenix native entered the academy and upon graduation drew Phoenix Metro East as his first assignment with the Highway Patrol. After a transfer to Payson in 1996, Benham was selected for a position in Advanced Training in 1999.

He promoted to sergeant in June 2000 and became administrative sergeant in District 3, Holbrook. Since April 2002, Benham has handled assignments as a patrol supervisor in several areas, the latest in Show Low.

A member of the Arizona National Guard from 1989 through 1996, Benham has an associates degree from Chandler-Gilbert Community College and a bachelor of science degree from Grand Canyon University.

Coleman, whose first assignment as a lieutenant will be with the Highway Patrol's Metro Central district, started his DPS career in 1987 as a cadet officer. Upon graduation from the Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALETA), Coleman was assigned to Phoenix. Five years later, he transferred into Criminal Investigations, working narcotics.

In 1994, the Glendale native promoted to sergeant and again was assigned to Phoenix with the Highway Patrol. Other assignments as a sergeant included stints with Professional Standards Inspections and Control and GITEM.

Coleman also holds a bachelor's degree from Arizona State University.

Blunk, a former head baseball coach at Arizona Western College in Yuma, draws Tucson Narcotics as his first assignment as a lieutenant.

The St. Louis native started his DPS career in June 1984 as a cadet officer. After graduation, he was assigned to Yuma before transferring to ALETA as the operations staff manager.

Upon his promotion to sergeant in 1989, Blunk became the proficiency skills supervisor at ALETA before moving to commercial vehicles enforcement in 1990. In 1994, he was assigned to Tucson GITEM, and in 1998 he transferred into Intelligence Investigations.

Blunk, a professional and college-level baseball umpire in his spare time, has a bachelor's degree in education from the University

of Missouri and a masters in education from Indiana University.

Heape, a native of Manhattan, Kan., became a cadet officer in 1987. After graduating from the academy, Heape drew Holbrook as his first assignment. As a Highway Patrol officer, he also worked in Black Canyon City and Wikieup.

In 1996, he transferred into Advanced Training, remaining there until his promotion to sergeant in 1999. As a sergeant, he completed assignments with Internal Affairs and the Highway Patrol in Casa Grande.

With his promotion, Heape, who holds a bachelor's degree from Grand Canyon University, becomes the District 4 commander in Yuma.

Hegarty's career with the Department started in 1991. After completing the academy, Hegarty went to Yuma as a Highway Patrol officer where he remained until 1998 when he transferred to Flagstaff.

In 2000, the Tucson native who holds a bachelor of science degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Arizona promoted to sergeant and returned to Yuma. Two years later, he returned to northern Arizona when he accepted an assignment with the Highway Patrol in Williams.

As a lieutenant, Hegarty will work within the Metro Patrol district in Phoenix.

Perry joined DPS in May 1980 as a cadet officer, drawing Painted Desert as his first duty post. Three years later, he was a counselor at ALETA for a brief time before becoming a motorcycle officer in Phoenix.

In 1988, the Muskogee, Okla. native, promoted to sergeant and was assigned to the Highway Patrol Bureau staff before returning to motorcycles in 1988. As a sergeant, he completed assignments with Criminal Investigations, Internal Affairs and the Special Operations Unit.

As a lieutenant, Perry will be assigned to the Homeland Security Unit.

The graduate of Northland Pioneer College also is a chief warrant officer as a reserve in the U.S. Navy and was called into active duty during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Martin receives LEMSC appointment

Retired DPS Lt. Col. Juan Martin has been appointed by Gov. Janet Napolitano to serve on the Law Enforcement Merit System Council (LEMSC) which oversees administrative operations within the Department.

The announcement was made April 23.



From Director Dennis Garrett's

Vantage Point

During 2003, nearly 150 federal, state and local law officers were killed in the line of duty. Fortunately, DPS was not among those agencies enduring such a tragic loss as a fallen officer. A number of our officers experienced some harrowing close calls last calendar year while serving and protecting the people of this state, but they were able for the most part to walk away not only unscathed but much wiser from the experience.

May is the month we traditionally pay homage to our fallen officers in this great nation of ours. As we go about our business this month, please take some time and remember those at DPS who paid the ultimate sacrifice in years past.

Starting with the Dec. 22, 1958 death of Patrolman Louis O. Cochran, there have been 27 line-of-duty deaths in our agency's history. They all should be in our thoughts or prayers when we take time to remember them. Following are other DPS officers who tragically died while serving state and country.

Liquor Control Agent Alfred Moore - Nov. 28, 1965
 Patrolman Paul E. Marston - June 9, 1969
 Officer Gilbert A. (Gib) Duthie - Sept. 5, 1970
 Officer James L. Keeton - Feb. 5, 1971
 Officer Don A. Beckstead - Feb. 7, 1971
 Officer Alan H. Hansen - July 19, 1973
 Officer Gregory A. Diley - Dec. 2, 1977
 Officer Noah M. Merrill - Dec. 11, 1978
 Officer John C. Walker - Nov. 30, 1979
 Officer William H. Murie - Nov. 19, 1980
 Pilot Thomas McNeff - Oct. 2, 1983
 Paramedic Richard Stratman - Oct. 1, 1983
 Officer Bruce A. Petersen - Oct. 20, 1987
 Officer Edward Rebel - June 28, 1988
 Officer Johnny E. Garcia - Oct. 14, 1989
 Officer David G. Gabrielli - Aug. 31, 1990
 Sgt. John M. Blaser - Aug. 31, 1990
 Sgt. Manuel H. Tapia - Jan. 8, 1991
 Sgt. David J. Zesiger - July 3, 1992
 Reserve Sgt. Mark Dryer - July 3, 1993
 Sgt. Michael L. Crowe - July 4, 1995
 Officer Robert K. Martin - Aug. 15, 1995
 Officer Douglas E. Knutson - Jan. 2, 1998
 Officer Juan N. Cruz - Dec. 9, 1998
 Officer Floyd J. (Skip) Fink - Feb. 18, 2000
 Officer Brett Buckmister - March 21, 2000

All of you will always be remembered.

Anna Mae Kollar of DPS Help Desk dies April 16 in Phoenix

Memorial services for Anna Mae Kollar, 67, a support services assistant at DPS, were conducted April 16 at the First United Methodist Church in Phoenix.

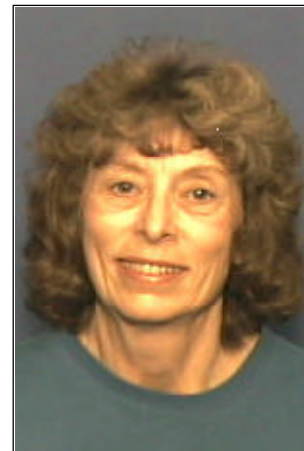
Ms. Kollar, who was assigned to the IT Help Desk, passed away April 8, following a lengthy illness.

A resident of Phoenix since 1963, Ms. Kollar began her employment with DPS on Jan. 3, 1998.

The Allentown, Penn. native, was an avid hiker and served as president of the Honeywell Bull Hikers Club for three years. Additionally, Ms. Kollar, badge no. 5381, was active with the Cub Scouts, the Phoenix Symphony and the Antiques Road Show. She also was a member of the Heard Museum.

Previously, she was employed by Honeywell, the Department of Economic Security and the Deer Valley Unified School District.

She is survived by her companion Douglas Cardoza; two sons, Jeffrey and David; six grandchildren; one great grandchild; two brothers; and her former husband and friend, George Kollar.



ANNA MAE KOLLAR

USERRA guidelines provide job protection for reserves

As the war in Iraq continues, the rights of many DPS employees in the Arizona National Guard or other reserve branches of the military are protected by guidelines established by the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights ACT (USERRA).

The USERRA, enacted in October 1994 and significantly updated in 1996 and 1998, provides employees with job protection and reinstatement rights if their civilian job is interrupted because of required participation with the National Guard and/or reserves.

This law emphasizes that employees are protected from unlawful discrimination based on military affiliation by an employer, said DPS Lt. Dave Myers, who oversees the development, writing and revisions of General Orders at DPS.

The USERRA, Myers said, provides protections involving initial hiring and adverse employment actions by an employer if the action is motivated even in part by the employee's military obligation.

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The Digest is published monthly by the DPS Training and Management Services Bureau for the employees and retirees of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Employees are invited to submit story ideas or stories for publication. Stories or story ideas may be submitted to *The Digest* by mail, EMS or Telephone (602-223-2313).

Dennis A. Garrett, Director
 Art Coughanour, Publications Editor, acoughanour@dps.state.az.us
 Jim Jertson, Publications Support Specialist, jjertson@dps.state.az.us

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DPS launching its version of 'I Want You!' recruiting campaign

For years the U.S. military relied on Uncle Sam and his "I Want You!" campaign as a foundation for its recruiting efforts.

A variation of the "I Want You!" campaign could be used to describe a recruitment campaign at DPS as the Department strives to place some 100 officers in the Arizona Law Enforcement Academy (ALEA) by the end of the calendar year.

The "You" in this case is the DPS employee. At least three top executives along with Director Dennis Garrett are in agreement that the best recruiting tool the Department has to offer is its employees.

In the past year or so, the Department has engaged in various activities in its effort to find and recruit qualified individuals for ALEA. It's also a safe assumption to believe that DPS recruitment efforts will intensify even further as it strives to meet its goal of hiring some 100 new officers before Jan. 1, 2005.

In this endeavor, the Department has increased its presence on the Internet. Through the electronic and print media, the agency has advanced the benefits of becoming part of the DPS team. Departmental personnel have also been active participants in various job fairs throughout Arizona.

Other determined efforts have seen both civilian and sworn personnel assigned to Human Resources paying visits to a number of military bases within Arizona and California, targeting those soon to be honorably discharged from the military.

"Despite all these efforts, the most consistent and successful recruiting tool we have is our 'referral system.' Over the past year, we have seen a significant increase in applicants who acknowledge that they were referred to us by the DPS family – employees, family and friends," said Cmdr. Sam Fragala, who commands the Human Resources Bureau at DPS.

Although Fragala said finding 100 qualified candidates for the academy remains a formidable challenge, he is confident that DPS employees, family members and friends will help the agency accomplish this goal.

"I would like our employees to know that their recruiting efforts have been very, very successful and very effective, not to mention sincerely appreciated," the DPS commander emphasized.

Fragala said finding qualified candidates and bringing them into the agency is a very difficult process at the least.

"Law enforcement officers in the Phoenix area and the state are competing for talent within the same applicant pool," Fragala

explained. "It's a highly competitive law enforcement hiring environment. Unfortunately, many law enforcement agencies, including DPS, have seen not only the quantity, but the quality of qualified applicants diminish over the past two years."

Although in recent months, the Department has been able to meet its obligations of placing patrolmen in the Tucson and Phoenix metropolitan areas, it's a continuous struggle, especially in the outlying areas of Arizona, according to Rod Covey, assistant director of the Agency Support Division which has Human Resources within its organizational umbrella.

As Covey sees it, it's not going to get any easier to find qualified individuals wanting to become a Highway Patrol officer with the Department. Covey said he believes the Department is at a crisis stage in its ability to recruit qualified candidates.

"In years past, we would have hundreds, sometimes over a thousand candidates show up for our testing process," Covey said. "In the last testing process we had 122 candidates participate in two different test days.

"That's not nearly enough especially when you consider that of every 22 candidates who enter the process, we will end up hiring only one, and that's been pretty consistent over the years. Based on what we have seen during the past six months, I believe we are at a crisis stage in the area of recruiting qualified applicants to become Highway Patrol officers at DPS."

Covey said only 122 candidates showed up for a recent testing process despite the fact that the Department initiated a statewide advertising campaign through various media forms, including the state's largest daily newspaper, *The Arizona Republic*.

In the 1980s and 90s, it wasn't uncommon to see 1,000 people apply and compete for some 20 to 25 positions, Covey said. Because of the state's mushrooming population and inequities in compensation compared to other agencies, the Department is facing a constant uphill climb in recruiting qualified candidates.

"In the June Arizona Law Enforcement Academy, we need to fill 20 positions," Covey said. "Some 120 candidates per process simply isn't going to be enough. You can take those numbers and realize that we don't have enough candidates at this time to fill 20 positions for the June academy, 20 positions for the August academy and 20 more in the October academy."

Covey emphasized that the crisis is state-

wide, not just in the Phoenix area.

"We want to recruit people from throughout the state," Covey said. "We need officers in all parts of Arizona, not just Maricopa or Pima counties."

Like Fragala, Covey said the Department needs the continuous support it has received consistently from its employees.

"If an employee has a friend or relative who would be a good candidate for the Department, this is a great time to give them a little push," the assistant director said.

Lt. Col. Bill Reutter, assistant director of the Highway Patrol Division, echoes the statements made by Fragala and Covey.

"The DPS employee is the best recruiting tool that this agency has," Reutter said. "I feel that we do recruiting every day whether we know it or not.

"Our employees set examples, trends and attitudes. Our officers out there everyday in their uniforms recruit every day. If a person has a good experience with our officers, they are going to pass that along to their children and others. But, on the other hand, a bad experience can change that attitude."

Covey also encourages those who might have had some problems in their lives years ago to apply and let Human Resources make the qualifying decision.

"Let our people doing the recruiting and hiring in Human Resources talk with these candidates. Let us determine if their previous behavior violated POST rules or if such behavior was so serious that we cannot employ them.

"In many cases, these potential candidates who feel very badly about their previous behavior are very, very ethical people. These indiscretions committed years ago may have no bearing on their law enforcement career.

"However, despite the mounting challenges we face in recruiting qualified officer candidates, we will not lower our standards in an effort to attract additional candidates."

To encourage employees to help in this recruiting effort, Covey said the Department is considering a recognition-leave program which will reward employees between eight and 16 hours of vacation leave once their "recruit" enters ALEA.

Fragala said recruiting materials such as brochures and pamphlets can be obtained from Human Resources, 602-223-2290.

"I'm very confident that with the help of all our employees combined with the effort of all personnel at Human Resources that we will successfully accomplish our stated goals," Fragala said.

Humanitarian award a humbling experience for DPS supervisor

When she learned about the award she was to receive, it definitely came as a surprise for longtime DPS employee Rosie Miller.

The nomination also was a very humbling experience for the budget analysis supervisor who is assigned to the Comptroller's Office.

On April 15, Miller received the 14th annual Volene Stockham Humanitarian Award presented to her by the Glendale Human Services Council during a banquet at Arrowhead Country Club in Glendale.

Miller was nominated for the prestigious honor by Lynn Hamilton, an associate pastor at the Glendale First United Methodist Church. She learned about the nomination from a friend, Paige Thomas, while attending a steering committee meeting concerning a neighborhood project.

"It was truly a surprise," Miller said.

In the nomination, Rev. Hamilton praised Miller for her continuous voluntary work in helping preserve neighborhood areas surrounding downtown Glendale. For Miller, this endeavor has civic pride as a foundation.

Miller was born in Glendale and lives in the house in which she grew up about a half-mile west of downtown Glendale. Upon graduating from Glendale High School, she went away to college. After graduating from Northern Arizona University, she accepted a teacher's position in Mesa. Nine years later, in 1983, she moved back to Glendale, leaving the teaching profession to begin her career with DPS.

Her honor wasn't based on any particular incident but instead on the culmination of her volunteer work throughout the years with various downtown projects and organizations.

"This reward is the reflection of a lot of hard work and dedication by many other people, not just myself," the Glendale native said. "My focus has been my neighborhood. A lot of folks in the downtown area are low income. We have a lot of nice houses, but some need repair and many are rentals. Just because you are low-income doesn't mean you have to live in substandard housing."

To put it mildly, Miller is very active within her community. She serves on the board of directors for Los Vecinos Housing Development and on the Orchard Glen Weed and Seed Neighborhood Steering Committee. She is vice-chairperson of the Orchard Glen Neighborhood Partnership and is quite involved in a nonprofit, faith-based government collaborative that focuses attention on serving low-income and homeless people in a variety of social and economic ways.



Award recipient

Rosie Miller proudly displays the Volene Stockham Humanitarian Award she received from the Glendale Human Services Council. The council honored the longtime DPS employee for her volunteer work.

With her church, she teaches 5th/6th-grade Sunday school, assists with the Alpha classes, and supports the Brad Riner Fund which provides emergency assistance to low-income and homeless people. It was her efforts with the Brad Riner Fund that provided the impetus for Rev. Hamilton's nomination.

"The award is very humbling but at the same time very neat," Miller said. "It's a lot

of work, but I do not do it for the glory. A lot of what I do, along with many other people, is very tedious but very important. It is nice to see that our work is being recognized."

Last year, the U.S. Attorney's Office recognized Miller's civic contributions by presenting her with a Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee Award for her activities within the neighborhood Weed and Seed program.

For DPS officer, traffic stop turned into a million-dollar dream

As a commercial vehicle safety specialist with the Highway Patrol, DPS Officer Fred Heggstad figures he has a million-dollar job.

Working mostly within a forest of ponderosa skyscrapers and breathing mountainous air not normally visible to the naked eye, it's a job Heggstad loves. He figures life as a law enforcement officer simply doesn't get much better than monitoring commercial vehicle traffic along Interstate 40 in the Flagstaff-Williams area.

By his measuring stick, the nine-year DPS veteran has never had a traffic stop turn into what he considers to be a major bust. But, all that changed the morning of March 23 when an unusually-painted west-bound Ford F350 truck passed by pulling a trailer with three dinged and dingy vehicles aboard.

"The truck looked like a commercial vehicle, but it wasn't labeled as such, there was no company name or logo on it," the DPS officer explained about the stop that occurred about 10 miles west of Williams. That stop eventually resulted in the seizure of more than \$1 million in cash.

After stopping the orange, yellow and red-painted truck that until six months ago had belonged to the Tide racing team of NASCAR fame, Heggstad struck a conversation with the driver, Jesse O. Sainz, 35, and learned that he was transporting the vehicles, purchased at an auction, to California from South Carolina.

"While talking to him, I became somewhat suspicious because he was extra polite but, at the same time, so very nervous," Heggstad said. "After a while, I asked for permission to search the vehicle. He consented and told me about a suitcase inside the truck that contained \$10,000 in cash."

Heggstad said his suspicions were enticed further when the truck driver couldn't explain why such a large amount of cash was in his possession.

After finding the money, bound with rubber bands in \$1,000 bundles, and learning that Sainz, a California resident, was wanted for a probation violation, the CVSS officer called upon the services of DPS Canine Officer Casey Kasun and his partner, Barry.

Upon their arrival a short time later, it got even more interesting as Barry almost immediately alerted on the rear seat area within the crew cab. The ensuing search by the two DPS officers produced another \$40,000 in cash stuffed underneath the rear seat.

It was then decided to take the commercial rig back to Flagstaff for closer scrutiny.

"After we located another \$390,000 in the spoiler air foil atop the trunk, we alerted the media, figuring that we had found all the



This is the \$1.1 million in cash seized by DPS Officer Fred Heggstad.

money" Heggstad said. "The press came, took their pictures and video tape and left. After they left, Tim Tatro and Rod Parish (also CVSS officers) and myself were walking around the trailer when almost simultaneously we realized that more than likely there was more money hidden within the framework of the trailer."

So the three CVSS officers, Kasun and DPS Detective Tom Perkins, began dismantling the trailer. Before long, they had found another \$700,000 in cash stashed within the trailer's framework.

"It took us four hours to count all the money," Heggstad said. "We used two bank tellers and two electronic counting machines. However, one of the electronic counting machines overheated and stopped working so another one had to be brought in."

The CVSS officer said there was \$240,000 in \$100 bills, and \$710,000 in \$20s.

"The money came in all denominations, from \$100s down through \$1 bills. There was even some loose change," Heggstad said, adding that Sainz did not resist arrest nor did he have any weapons.

At final count, the officers had come up with \$1,106,635. Once the amount was verified, the money was turned over to the DEA which arranged to have the currency moved by armored truck to a Tempe location. Once it arrived at a Tempe banking facility, a cashier's check for that amount was drawn

by the DEA.

Heggstad said that it is his understanding that DPS will receive about 80 percent of the cash as a "finder's fee" from the DEA.

Sainz, on probation for a previous narcotics conviction, was booked into the Coconino County jail in Flagstaff and charged with money laundering. As of mid April, he had not posted bail and remained in custody.

"He continually denies any knowledge of the money and has even signed a waiver to that effect," Heggstad said, adding that the suspect was uncooperative throughout the investigation.

Heggstad said he really didn't get excited when the first \$50,000 was found. The next \$390,000 got him pumped while the trailer yield initiated an adrenaline flow that pretty much kept him up all night. In fact, he reported to work the next day about 90 minutes early.

That's what happens when you work the northern Arizona high country with its poster-quality blue skies frequently seen in numerous travel magazines. It's a setting that makes you feel like a million dollars.

As for Sainz, he says California is home. But his South Carolina driver's license says differently, listing his address on Prison Camp Road, possibly an inkling that his next address very likely could be very similar to his last.

Some 800 eat well at barbecue benefitting Special Olympics

Despite the presence of a pestering, stop-and-go rain storm, more than 800 people attended the second annual DPS cookout for Special Olympics at the DPS headquarters building in Phoenix April 2.

After expenses, the popular outdoor charitable event, a prelude to this year's Arizona Law Enforcement Torch Run, raised \$9,000 for Special Olympics, more than doubling last year's event which amassed about \$4,000.

"We more than doubled what we raised through the cookout last year despite this year's rain," said Sgt. Faith Morgan, one of the event's organizers and agency coordinator for this year's Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

All funds raised through this year's cookout, catered by Outback Steakhouse Restaurants, came strictly from the sale of meal and raffle tickets.

In the end, about 850 meal tickets and nearly 3,000 raffle tickets were sold.

"The response to the cookout was amazing and we would like to thank everyone who attended the event," Morgan said.

Raffle tickets, which could be purchased at the event for \$1, turned out to be a very hot commodity at the cookout because dozens of nifty raffle prizes were up for grabs.

The many prizes, which included free hot-air balloon rides, golf clubs and hotel stays, were donated from sponsors after being contacted by Morgan and DPS Sgt. Mark Remsey.

Morgan said the cookout would not have been the success it was without the help of several key individuals and organizations.

Morgan said special thanks should go to Outback Steakhouse Restaurants, the staff at DPS' Code 7 Café, Ready Ice, Tents and Events and the Phoenix Suns.

Morgan said event organizers were also very grateful for the assistance of the many DPS employees and retirees who volunteered to help work at and set-up the event, including the DPS officers and staff members who manned the agency's specialty displays at the cookout.

"The kind sponsors who donated raffle items and services should also be thanked," Morgan said.

Morgan said plans for next year's cookout are under way with various improvements being studied. "Each time we hold this event, we come up with ideas on how we can make it better the following year," Morgan said.

Next year, Morgan said the event will not be on a Friday so that those adhering to di-



Let's eat

Despite rain, many at DPS enjoyed the annual barbecue that supports the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

Cookout one of many events planned to help raise money for Special Olympics

The recent DPS cookout for Special Olympics in Phoenix may have captured a great deal of attention, but it was actually just one of several fund-raising events DPS personnel have planned for this year's Special Olympics.

Like the cookout, the other planned fundraisers serve as preludes to this year's Arizona Law Enforcement Torch Run and need the support of DPS employees and friends to be successful.

One fund-raising event DPS employees are being encouraged to attend and support is the Tip-a-Cop event that will be held April 29 from 6-9 p.m. at both Claim Jumper's Restaurants in the Phoenix-area.

During this event, DPS officers will serve as waiters and waitresses at the two popular restaurants with all of the tips they generate going directly to Special Olympics.

One of the Claim Jumper's Restaurants hosting the event is located in Tempe near Arizona Mills Mall at the junction of I-10

and U.S. 60. The other Claim Jumper's hosting the event is located in north Phoenix at the junction of I-17 and the Loop 101 freeway.

For more information about the Tip-a-Cop events, contact DPS Sgt. Faith Morgan at (602) 363-5940.

Another event taking place for Special Olympics will be a golf tournament in Tucson organized by DPS personnel. That event will be May 1. Contact DPS Lt. Rocky Quijada for more information at (520) 547-3709.

The Torch Run will take place May 3-7 throughout the state. DPS officers who obtain pledges and participate in the "run" will be provided with official Torch Run T-shirts to wear while running.

This year, the T-shirts DPS officers will receive were paid for and sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police who made a substantial financial contribution to Special Olympics.

Department plans 'Bring Your Child to Work Day' for June

"Bring Your Child to Work Day" at DPS will be June 17 according to event coordinator Jennie Edwards, an administrative services officer assigned to Research and Planning.

Registration for the event can be completed on line at www.dps.state.az.us. After reaching the web site, Edwards says to click on the "Bring Your Child to Work Day" link.

"Be sure to obtain your supervisor's approval prior to registration, and register no later than Friday, June 11," Edwards emphasized.

Edwards said the format this year will be much different from previous events due to anticipated summer heat.

"We are going to have theme-related Power Point presentations, speakers, demonstrations and various other activities," Edwards said, adding that classroom space is very limited.

"Because of such space limitations, we must insist that only current employees may bring their own child, one per parent, ages nine through 17.

For additional information, Edwards can be contacted by telephone at 602-223-2314 or by e-mail jedwards@dps.state.as.us.

Lt. Dave Myers to serve on PSPRS board

DPS Lt. Dave Myers was elected to serve on the local board of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System, it was announced March 23 by Human Resources.

DPS sergeant suffers broken leg during arrest

Despite suffering a broken left leg, DPS Sgt. Brian Preston assisted in the arrest of a combative motorist April 8 near Benson.

Preston told the Duty Office said that after the motorist was stopped, an altercation ensued in which Preston was kicked in the chest and left leg. After the skirmish, Preston was treated and released from the Benson hospital.



News conference

Framed by TV cameras, DPS Sgt. Johnny Sanchez goes through details that led to the conviction of Harry Chung on charges of selling precursor chemicals knowing they would be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

Phoenix man faces stiff sentence after conviction for selling precursor chemicals

A Phoenix businessman, accused of selling precursor chemicals that he knew would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, was found guilty in Maricopa County Superior Court, thus becoming the first such conviction by jury in state history.

Harry J. Chung, who was found guilty April 7, faces a possible \$820,000 fine and up to five years in prison when sentenced May 5.

Chung was also found guilty of using the proceeds of these sales to maintain control of his convenience store business.

The investigation into Chung's illicit activities was conducted by DPS, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and the HIDTA Task Force, said DPS Sgt. Johnny Sanchez who oversaw the investigation that linked Chung to the manufacturing of methamphetamine.

"The manner in which he conducted his business clearly showed that he knew he was selling precursor chemicals to meth 'cooks,'" Sanchez said.

Precursor chemicals such as pseudoephedrine and ephedrine, Sanchez explained, are found in many cold and allergy medications and are the main ingredients used in the production of meth.

Sanchez said evidence presented to the Arizona Attorney General's Office during the

18-month investigation included a package of pseudoephedrine designed for 48 tablets that was repackaged by Chung to include 144 tablets.

The DPS sergeant said Chung also placed 24-gram amounts of pseudoephedrine into brown paper bags to sell to "customers" who requested "the limit."

Sanchez explained that during Chung's 30-month business venture, his gross income for the illegal sales topped \$820,000.

"Chung sold enough pseudoephedrine and ephedrine over this period to produce more than 500 pounds of methamphetamine," Sanchez revealed at a news conference conducted at DPS state headquarters April 14.





Governor's visit

In late March, Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano (center in black suit) visited the Department and surprised some DPS employees as she toured the third floor of the DPS state headquarters building. She also took time to pose for a photo with Finance Services Bureau employees. From left are Director Dennis Garrett, Lu Himmelstein, Carol Wilson, Anita Schantz, Gerri Harmon, Annette Darling, the governor, Bev Bettes, Robert Troup, Mary Ann Mulcaire, Chuck LeBlanc, Debbie Paddock, Marcia Nelson and Bill Heiner.

Pungent smell had Property and Evidence personnel baffled

A piece of fruit provided the backdrop to a serious but later humorous incident involving DPS' Property and Evidence facility in Phoenix.

Although the incident eventually proved to be humorous for those involved, it did generate a need to remind DPS employees to pay very close attention to any items they submit into Property and Evidence.

Specifically, DPS employees should make sure they do not submit any perishable food items into Property and Evidence unless, for some strange reason, such items must absolutely be submitted.

The incident that necessitated this recent reminder began March 10 when DPS employees assigned to Property and Evidence reported a strange odor in their work area.

According to Howard Birnbaum, assistant superintendent of DPS' Scientific Analysis Bureau, the pungent odor seemed to be isolated to about a 4-foot area of shelving where various types of property and evidence are stored.

Given that the boxes on the shelves were sealed and could not be opened without following the strict protocol designed to maintain the integrity of evidence, staff members were limited in what they could do to find the source of the disturbing smell.

In addition, Birnbaum said there was some confusion concerning what the odor was, how strong it was, and exactly from where it was originating.

In an effort to resolve the problem and

locate the smell, Birnbaum gathered three of the drug/clan lab specialists from DPS' Crime Laboratory in Phoenix to help him track the problem.

"I figured that with a team of trained noses, we could surely track down the problem," Birnbaum said.

As it turns out, Birnbaum's team of "trained noses" looked and looked, smelled and smelled, opened a box they thought suspicious, but ultimately had no success.

The next morning, Birnbaum was told that the smell had not gone away and that the odor was either stronger, or weaker, depending on who was asked. Speculation was that the odor was either starter fluid, ether, or alcohol.

Running out of options, Birnbaum consulted Todd Griffith, the agency's Scientific Analysis superintendent. They agreed that they had only two options.

Their first option was to contact DPS' safety supervisor who might contact the Phoenix Fire Department. Their second option was to see if DPS' Hazardous Materials Unit might be able assist in the matter.

A decision was made to first check with the Hazardous Material's Unit. Just a few minutes after the specialized DPS unit was informed of the problem, they arrived at the Property and Evidence facility with their high-tech gear and instruments.

Members of the Hazardous Materials Unit immediately began "snooping" around the Property and Evidence facility with their hydrocarbon sniffer and, within minutes,

they "cornered" the box.

After the box was moved outside, they followed various protocols, including chain of custody guidelines, and carefully opened the box. Within the box they located a backpack.

Inside the backpack was a fermenting, moldy orange.

Birnbaum and others assisting with the incident said they were amazed at the sensitivity of the hydrocarbon sniffer. In visiting with members of the Hazardous Materials Unit after the incident, Birnbaum learned it was the unit's very first "Agent Orange" case. Because the culprit turned out to be a harmless orange and not something else as some suspected, those involved were able to laugh freely about the incident.

However, those in Property and Evidence could have been spared the work and worry if someone had not accidentally submitted an orange for safekeeping.

Standoff costs \$3.6 million

The 15-day hostage standoff at the Arizona State Prison Complex-Lewis, cost the state more than \$3.6 million.

Some \$850,000 is earmarked to reimburse expenses incurred by outside agencies such as DPS and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office who responded to the complex south of Buckeye shortly after the incident began during the early-morning hours of Jan. 18.

During the incident, two state prison inmates held a male correctional officer as hostage for about a week and a female correctional officer for the duration of the ordeal.



Easter egg hunt

A group of eager 4- to 8-year old children listen to the final instructions of Mike Forbrook, president of the Cops Who Care program, concerning an Easter egg hunt sponsored by the Wickenburg law enforcement organization. At right is DPS Officer Davis Coughanour. Despite inclement weather, more than 200 children, including toddlers and teenagers, participated in the April 3 event.

Hospital honors DPS officer for saving life of injured motorist

Phoenix-area Highway Patrol Officer John Petculescu, a five-year law enforcement veteran, received a lifesaving award in early April from the Phoenix Children's Hospital and the American Heart Association.

Petculescu received the award for using his knowledge of CPR to help save the life of a seriously-injured man who was ejected in a rollover collision about six months ago.

Penny Overgaard, a registered nurse at Phoenix Children's Hospital, presented the award to Petculescu April 7 in front of his squad and his supervisor, Sgt. Faith Morgan.

Petculescu said he does not deserve all of the credit for his recent award because it was Morgan who paid for him and the rest of his squad to become re-certified in CPR two years ago.

Petculescu said Morgan used her own funds to re-certify him and the rest of his squad in CPR as part of a Christmas present to the group.

"Sgt. Morgan wanted us to become re-

certified in CPR because it had been several years since most of us first learned CPR in the law enforcement academy," Petculescu said. "Morgan wanted the proper CPR techniques to be fresh in our memories and she wanted us to be aware of all of the modifications and improvements that were made to the procedure since we first became certified."

After informing her squad about her Christmas present to the group, Morgan registered them for re-certification classes at Phoenix Children's Hospital. She also attended the classes with the squad.

During the classes, Morgan's squad became re-certified to perform CPR on adults and children. In addition, the squad also became certified to use defibrillators.

Petculescu said the knowledge he gained during the re-certification process definitely helped him six months ago when he responded to the scene of the roll-over in which a victim had been ejected and seri-

ously injured.

"My understanding of the proper CPR protocol and procedures played a big role in my ability to assist the victim following that collision," Petculescu said.

Because of success stories like Petculescu's, the American Heart Association wants to encourage more people to become re-certified or certified in CPR, especially those working in a public safety field who may have learned the technique years earlier but need a refresher.

Morgan said DPS employees can register for and take CPR classes at a variety of places.

She recommends that classes be taken at Phoenix Children's Hospital because the facility charges a very reasonable rate and has very professional, caring staff members.

"It's a good idea to become re-certified in CPR sooner rather than later because you never know when you might have the chance to perform it," Morgan said.

DPS officer helps paraplegic teenager obtain new wheelchair

The following article is published with permission from the Green Valley News.

BY MIKE TOUZEAU

Green Valley News

Two thumbs up and a big smile said it all, a response from Danny Knoblock, 15, of Nogales who was getting used to his new motorized wheelchair, compliments of two guys who hardly know each other, but who have something pretty important in common. They care, and they're willing to prove it.

Danny, a paraplegic since birth, met Kevin McNichols, a DPS Highway Patrol officer, at Desert Shadows Middle School two years ago.

McNichols was volunteering in a summer program sponsored by the Family Resource Center in Phoenix to help kids get back on their feet academically and avoid drugs.

"I wanted kids to see that a cop isn't just the guy who arrests people and drags them off to jail," said McNichols who has been with DPS since 1999 and works the Nogales area.

He never forgot Danny and his struggles with his manual chair, and as fate would have it, he saw him again when the family broke down on the freeway one day, and he stopped to help out.

McNichols had previously met Don Phillips, a former cop himself, and owner of S-N-D Scooters in Green Valley.

And when McNichols ran into the family once again a couple of months ago when Danny's sister Katrina was being honored with her Nogales High School cheerleading teammates for a fifth straight state cheerleading championship, he listened intently as Danny's mother Lupita mentioned her and her husband John's hope to find him a better chair.

He talked to him about Danny, and Phillips didn't even have to think about it.

I couldn't believe it," said McNichols. "He offered to just give him a new chair."

Phillips told McNichols to call the family and have them come in.

He brought out three brand new chairs and let Danny pick one out. He chose a \$6,000 Quickie G-424 with 5 speeds and a custom seat.

"When he sat down in that chair, the look on his face could not be described," said Phillips.

His mother shaking, hugged Phillips and just kept saying, "I don't believe it."

His father found it difficult to explain how important it was to his son and the whole family that Danny would now have mobility

that he's never had before.

"Just a simple thing like taking a walk with him around the neighborhood," he said, trying to come up with the right words.

"Well, it means he can go out on his own without being pushed and without getting tired anymore, and we can be a family together and enjoy being outside with Danny.

"We want to thank Officer McNichols. It's not the first time he's helped out our family," said Knoblock, again struggling to find the best way to say it.

"And Don Phillips, to think a man we've never met would do something like that for our son. I can't tell you what that feels like."

There are probably a lot of us occupying our space on this planet who, if we really think about it, could benefit more than we realize from knowing about these gestures by a cop and a businessman here in this little town in Arizona.

Maybe when we think about how tough our daily lives are, we could try to remember a sophomore at Nogales High School and the two men who cared about him.

Three suspects fatally shot by DPS officers in two unrelated incidents

Within four days, three DPS officers were involved in two unrelated shootings which resulted in the deaths of a suspected drug runner and two people suspected of car theft.

The first shooting occurred April 14 when two veteran DPS detectives assigned to the Vehicle Theft Task Force fatally shot a pair of suspected car thieves during an incident which occurred in the parking lot of a north Phoenix hotel.

The second incident took place April 18 when a DPS Highway Patrol officer shot a man who attacked him following a traffic stop near Wikieup.

The first shooting involved Detectives Tim Griffith and Robert Bowers who have been with the Department 23 and 18 years respectively, said Officer Frank Valenzuela of DPS Media Relations.

When the noontime shooting occurred, Valenzuela said the two suspects were inside a vehicle that was reportedly carjacked from a woman in Phoenix in early April. Valenzuela said officers assigned to the task force spotted the stolen red Dodge Neon in a hotel parking lot near Bell Road and the Black Canyon Freeway (I-17).

"After finding the vehicle, the officers placed it under surveillance until a man and woman emerged from a motel room, entered the car and began driving away," Valenzuela said. "At that point, the officers ordered the woman driving the car to stop. Instead, she accelerated, nearly striking an officer."

With all entrances and exits blocked by other DPS officers and their vehicles, Valenzuela said the woman then drove the car at Griffith, Bowers and DPS Detective Stanley Barzar who all fled taking cover behind a parked car. Valenzuela said the woman then drove her vehicle into the parked car, pushing it into Griffith who was able to es-

cape without injury.

At that point, Detectives Griffith and Bowers then opened fire because they feared for their safety, the DPS spokesman said. With the woman seriously wounded by the gunfire, Valenzuela said the male passenger then reached over and steered the vehicle at the officers a second time. The officers responded with an additional volley, mortally wounding Adam Feenaughty, 19.

The woman, Rejane Burgoyne, 21, was taken to John C. Lincoln Hospital, North Mountain, where she was pronounced dead.

The second incident occurred at about 7:15 a.m. April 18 when DPS Highway Patrol Officer Frank Griego stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation on U.S. 93 near Wikieup about 40 miles southwest of Kingman.

During the stop, the Duty Office reported that Griego smelled the scent of marijuana just prior to seeing the contraband resting in plain view inside the Ford Escort.

Griego ordered the driver, Julio Magos Peña, 24, from the vehicle and while handcuffing the suspect by his patrol car, the passenger, Efren Jimenez Barraza, 30, bolted from the vehicle and, along with Peña, assaulted the 5-year veteran DPS officer.

While being kicked and beaten during the roadside fight, Valenzuela said Griego pulled his service weapon and shot Barraza twice, killing the Bullhead City resident.

Peña, also Bullhead City resident, was not injured.

Valenzuela said Griego was flown by Kingman Air Rescue to the Kingman Regional Medical Center for treatment of bruises, lacerations and a broken nose.

Along with his drug charges, Peña now faces additional charges of attempted murder and aggravated assault.

Letters

Dear Director Garrett:

This letter is long overdue. Officer Tip Gardner had given us his card, but somehow we misplaced it. Happily, however, we found it today (March 20).

In November 2002, we were returning to Payson on Highway 87 when our car ran over a nail in the road causing a flat tire. We pulled to the shoulder and proceeded to remove the jack and spare from the trunk when Officer Gardner drove up behind us. He saw our problem and quickly came to our rescue and changed our tire.

Because our tires were only a few months old and under warranty, Officer Gardner suggested we go back to Mesa and exchange the tire for a new one, which we did.

We were so grateful for Officer Gardner's help. He certainly is a credit to the Highway Patrol.

Andrew Morrissey
Payson

Dear Director Garrett:

I thank Officer Daniel Pereda for his professionalism and courtesy, and efficiency when he provided roadside assistance to me on the East Valley 101.

Around 9 p.m. Feb. 24, I was headed home from a trial and trial preparation session at the Mesa Superior Court facility. Northbound, between Broadway and the Loop 202 exit when a tire went flat. There were no exits available and no way for me to leave the roadway.

Alerted to my situation by a passerby, Officer Pereda dealt with the situation in just minutes. He changed the tire and saw me safely on my way. His courtesy and kindness made a thoroughly unpleasant situation into an opportunity to meet a man who has my sincere gratitude. I said thank you that night, but it is my hope that you will convey this letter to him so that he knows how much his assistance meant.

Paula G. Davidson
Deputy Maricopa County Attorney

Dear Director Garrett:

I take this opportunity to thank you for allowing your officers to participate in our multi-agency Greater West Valley Commercial Truck Enforcement Campaign that was conducted Feb. 2.

The knowledge and professionalism that your officers displayed truly fit in with our mission to reduce the amount of unsafe trucks and drivers operating on the highways.

During this task force, there were 200 vehicles inspected with 796 violations, 134 citations, 72 vehicles placed out of service, and 11 drivers placed out of service.

Participating from your agency were Officers Tom Hale, Ron Schrank, Bob Eppinger and Sgt. Tim Kvochick.

Chief Daniel R. Hughes
Surprise Police Department

Dear Director Garrett:

In August, I attended a conference in Phoenix along with several members of the Postal Interdiction Team of the Narcotic and Gang Investigations Section.

First, I was very impressed by the caliber of the members of DPS who were there to assist us. They were courteous and professional and went out of their way to assist.

Secondly, I must tell you about a pleasant personal experience I had with two of your officers – Jennifer Baxter and Douglas Wheeler.

During a break at the conference, several of us went sightseeing, looking at houses for possible retirement. Well, we had car troubles, literally in the middle of nowhere, on a road leading from the only lake that exists in Arizona, from what I was told.

We called DPS Sgt. Adam Kurgan who arranged for the above officers to come and rescue us. Not only did they come and assist, but they drove us back to the hotel where we were staying. These two officers were pleasant and very knowledgeable. It is law enforcement officers like these two who truly make me proud to be a police officer. They are a credit to your department.

Lt. Elias Voulgaris
Chicago Police Department

Dear Director Garrett:

I commend the excellent service provided to me by Sgt. Jim Messerly.

On Wednesday, March 24, I received a phone call from my adult sister because she had been waiting for over an hour for my father to pick her up at the Phoenix airport. My dad is a snowbird from Minnesota who has excellent faculties for a man approaching 80 years of age, but his driving skills aren't what they used to be so my sister feared the worst.

After discovering no crash-related congestion in Phoenix on the Arizona DOT web map, I contacted Sgt. Messerly by phone having discovered his number on a news release posted on the DPS web site.

When I shared my story with Sgt. Messerly, he asked several pertinent questions about my dad and his vehicle, then checked with dispatchers to see if any crashes had been reported that fit my dad's

description. He informed me a short time later that none had, and then supplied two additional phone numbers where I could check with dispatchers at other agencies.

Given the Phoenix area is a mecca for our country's maturing population, I assume Sgt. Messerly may receive many calls like this, but not once did I get the sense that Sgt. Messerly was treating my request lightly. In fact, he demonstrated excellent customer-relations skills with an attitude that left me feeling special.

As a public servant specializing in public affairs, I am especially sensitive to a civil servant's interaction with the public. Let me conclude by saying Sgt. Messerly passed the test with flying colors.

It turns out that my dad ended up going to the wrong airport terminal. My sister and he connected a short time after my phone call to Sgt. Messerly.

Brian Jergenson
Minnesota DOT Public Affairs

Dear Lt. (Dave) Myers:

I wanted to let you know what a professional Digest Editor Art Coughanour is. My dad (Carlton L. Jones, Badge 95 retired in 1977 after 20 years) passed away last month and I contacted Art to see if DPS would publish his obituary in a future Digest. Art had responded back to me and he and I have been working together to get the article on my dad complete. I was unable to find a picture of my dad in time for Art's deadline, but he found one to put with Dad's obituary. This has been a difficult time for our family, and Art has made it very bearable. He is truly an asset to the DPS, and I wanted someone to know what a great job he is doing! I truly appreciated all of Art's help and support! I can see why my dad always liked working for the Patrol, you all are one big family and it shows.

Thank you all!

Nick Dunn
Phoenix

Martin ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Cmdr. Coy Johnston, LEMSC business manager, said Martin will assume the post vacated by Jerry Landau who by state law had to resign in order to run for the office of Maricopa County attorney.

Martin retired from DPS in 1983. Since leaving, he has held several top administrative positions within state government and the City of Phoenix. Currently, he is a deputy city manager with the City of Phoenix.

Inside DPS

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Kieffer, Timothy D., 3348, Telecommunications Technician

PROMOTIONS

Akridge, Brice B., 6233, from Laboratory Technician to Associate Criminalist

Benham, R. Brant, 4494, from Sergeant II to Lieutenant

Blunk, D.C. (Del), 3440, from Sergeant II to Lieutenant

Clark, Catherine R., 6227, from Laboratory Technician to Associate Criminalist

Coleman, Dansen J., 2047, from Sergeant II to Lieutenant

Heape, Kelly M., 4036, from Sergeant II to Lieutenant

Hegarty, Jack P., 4564, from Sergeant II to Lieutenant

Perry, Larry W., 2737, from Sergeant II to Lieutenant

NEWEMPLOYEES

Domres, Justin J., 6346, Auto/Motorcycle Technician

Hayes, Greg A., 6349, Local/Wide Area Network Specialist

Lattimer, Joseph C., 6347, Auto/Motorcycle Technician

Tuthill, Dennis W., 6350, Police Communications Dispatcher

Yamamoto, Karil Y., 6348, Cadet Officer

DEPARTURES

Blunk, Michelle K., 5231, Cadet Officer

Bowman, Addison C., 5816, Custodian

Lora, Cesar M., 5466, Security Officer

White, Robert D., 5630, Officer

RETIREMENTS

Rye, Brett M., 4952, Officer, 9 years

Strong, Belinda P., 2220, Administrative Services Officer, 26 years

Thorsen, Kenneth N., 3044, Computer Network Operator, 23 years

BIRTHS

Isaac Seba Axlund – 7 lbs., 11 oz., 20 inches. Born March 22 at Flagstaff Medical Center to Officer Erik Axlund and wife, Sheila. Erik is a Highway Patrol officer assigned to District 2, Page.

Elissa Jane Sumner – 7 lbs., 15 oz., 21 inches. Born March 26 at Boswell Hospital, Sun City, to Officer Tim Sumner and wife, Amber. Tim is a Highway Patrol Officer assigned to Metro West, Wickenburg.

Kelli Rene Stubblefield – 8 lbs., 6 oz., 21 inches. Born April 2 at Arrowhead Community Hospital, Glendale, to Officer Carrie Stubblefield and husband, Dave. Carrie is a Highway Patrol officer assigned to Metro Motors, Phoenix.

Lilyanne April Jones – 8 lbs. 1 oz., 19.5 inches. Born April 4 at Flagstaff Medical Center to Officer Kevin Jones and wife, Christie. Kevin is a Highway Patrol officer assigned to District 12, Camp Verde.

COPSWAP

For Sale: one Sig P229 12-round magazine for \$15, and one Sig P229 .357 barrel for \$75. David Denlinger, Ext. 2837 or ems 2747.

OBITUARIES

Boyce Azbill, 82, passed away on March 26 in Phoenix. He was the father of DPS retired Lt. Terry Azbill and Russ Azbill, an administrative services officer assigned to the Safety and Loss Section; and grandfather to Cadet Officer Aaron Azbill.

Richard Paul Landis, 79, of Surprise, passed away on March 29. He was the father of retired DPS Capt. Dick Landis.

Steven Morales, 41, of Phoenix, passed away on April 11 in Phoenix. He was the son of Jimmy and Irene Morales. Jimmy retired from DPS in 1991 as a building maintenance technician.

Finding of dead body in Tucson has grotesque twist

As it turns out, the note that DPS Call Taker Linda Blake found concerning the location of a dead body near Tucson headquarters has taken on a grotesque twist.

Initially, Tucson Police investigators said they had very few leads, but now it appears that the murder may have been a drug cartel hit.

Police involvement in the case began when Blake, as she was arriving for work at Tucson headquarters Feb. 25, found a note written on a piece of cardboard describing where a body could be found near Tucson International Airport.

After receiving a 9-1-1 call from Blake, Tucson authorities found the partially-disembodied body entombed in concrete within a plastic tub.

The case, however, took a macabre turn April 5 when the head of the body was found encased in concrete and buried in the nearby Santa Cruz river bed. The victim's hands and feet have not been found, according to Tucson police.

Tucson police identified the victim as Jesus Octavio Meza-Moreno, 27.

According to Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) investigators, Meza-Moreno was suspected of being part of a smuggling ring that had moved at least 440 pounds, about \$4.5 million worth, of cocaine into North Carolina during the past six months.

A prime suspect in the gruesome murder was arrested April 14 by Tucson police and federal authorities on various drug-related charges, one of which may lead to a death sentence if convicted.

Acting Special Agent-in-Charge Anthony J. Couslon told Tucson-area media that Francisco Gonzalez Castro, 26, worked with the victim as the Tucson distributors for the cocaine ring. Investigators said a rift developed between the two which led to the death of Meza-Moreno who investigators said died from a gunshot wound to the head sometime in early February.

Castro is not charged with first-degree murder. However, a federal law allows the death penalty for murder committed in the course of running a drug conspiracy. Investigators describe Castro as a possible drug-world assassin with suspected links to as many as seven homicides in the Tucson area.

Tucson detectives believe that Meza-Moreno's body was found by a homeless man who later left the cardboard note at DPS headquarters in Tucson.

Starting July 1, ASRS will charge interest on payroll purchase deduction requests

The Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) will begin to charge interest on all new payroll deduction agreements with a service purchase request date on or after July 1.

An original notice called for an April 1 implementation of the interest charge. However, at the March 19 ASRS Board of Trustees meeting, the board agreed to move the date back to July 1, affording members additional time to prepare for the change.

Payroll deduction agreements are contracts that may be established between a member and their employee for the purpose of making payments toward service purchase of previous years worked at another

qualified employer plan that can add to a member's pension benefit upon retirement.

Previously, the ASRS allowed payroll deduction payments over a period of time to be made without interest. The ASRS Board of Trustees authorized interest to be charged on all new payroll deduction agreements with a service purchase request date on or after July 1.

The interest rate is set at 8 percent, which is the ASRS earnings rate.

The board okayed the interest in an effort to ensure non-PDA participants do not absorb the cost of the PDA program, and to minimize future contribution rate increases affecting all ASRS members and employers.

USERRA ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Myers said any employee at DPS who is a member of the National Guard or reserves also must be excused from work to attend inactive or annual training and that the Department must re-employ the employee as if he or she has not been absent.

Myers said there is a limit to the amount of military leave an employer must permit.

According to the USERRA, Myers stated that there is no longer any differentiation between voluntary and involuntary military duty, although there is a 5-year cumulative service limit on the amount of voluntary military leave an employee may use and still retain employment rights.

The 5-year total, Myers said, does not include inactive duty or annual training; involuntary recall to or retention on active duty; voluntary or involuntary active duty in support of a war, national emergency or certain operational missions; and additional

training requirements determined and certified in writing by the Service Secretary who considers it to be necessary for professional development, completion of skill training or retraining.

Myers said normally prior notice from either the military or employee is required in order for an employee to be granted a leave of absence for military duty.

"Again, according to USERRA, prior notice, either orally or in writing, is required unless precluded by military necessity," Myers said, adding that the context for what constitutes timeliness of notification was not defined in detail by Congress.

"However, employees who participate in the National Guard or reserves should provide their employers as much advance notice as possible. According to the act, failure to do so could result in denial of USERRA protection."

Myers said the act passed and amended by Congress does not allow employers to require employees to apply for military leave of absence or submit official documentation for approval of military leave of absence.

"The employer also does not have a 'right of refusal' for military leave of absence, so long as the employee has not exceeded the five years of cumulative service provided under USERRA."

Myers said employers also can not require employees to find someone to cover his or her work period when military duty interrupts the work schedule nor can employers require employees to reschedule drills, annual training, or any obligation relating to military duty.

For further information about USERRA, Myers recommends the web site www.esgr.org.



Who is he?

When he was young, it appears that this youngster wanted to be a firefighter. But later in life he became a DPS Highway Patrol officer.

Who is he? Guess correctly and win a polo shirt courtesy of the Associated Highway Patrolmen of Arizona (AHPA). Please include your badge number with your entry.

Interdepartmental e-mail entries should be addressed to Art Coughanour, badge number 3131.

Internet entries should be sent to:

acoughanour@dps.state.az.us

Interdepartmental mail should go to The Digest, P.O. Box 6638, Phoenix, AZ 85005.

March Winner

Maria Aviles, a criminal records specialist with the Applicant Clearance Card Team in Phoenix, was the winner of the Digest's "Who Is He?" contest for March. Maria was the winner of a drawing after 44 people correctly guessed that the man in the leisure suit was Officer Dave Thompson, a commercial vehicle safety specialist. For her efforts, Maria received a polo shirt from the AHPA.



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DIGEST

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Down the Highways

May 1974

Some 271 DPS officers helped provide security for President Richard M. Nixon during his May 3 visit to the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix.

Most officers were assigned posts in and around the coliseum grounds. Some 14,000 persons filled the facility while another 3,500 peaceful demonstrators gathered outside the grounds. There were no major incidents reported throughout the president's visit to the Phoenix area.

DPS Officer Neil Hanna of Tucson suffered minor back injuries when his patrol car was struck by a suspected DUI driver May 13 in Tucson.

The crash occurred at the west-bound off-ramp at Interstate 10 and Park Avenue. The motorist was booked into the Pima County Jail on a felony charge because he was driving on a suspended license at the time of the crash.

May 1979

DPS Officer Ken Lindley was honored as officer of the year May 3 by the Tucson chapter of the Disabled American Veterans.

The award was for the extra investigative efforts and enforcement actions Lindley took during an auto theft investigation which resulted in three arrests and the recovery of eight vehicles in Chicago. The investigation also resulted in the solving of several Chicago-area burglaries.

DPS Officer Jack Urick was critically injured on the evening of May 3 while assisting a motorist on the Superstition Freeway.

Urick was pinned between his patrol car and the disabled vehicle after both cars were struck by a third vehicle driven by a suspected drunken driver. Both of Urick's legs suffered severe injuries and were repaired during surgery at St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix.

May 1984

A company that conducts high-stakes bingo games by mail was the target of DPS gambling and racketeering probe, according to an article appearing in the May 7 edition of *The Arizona Republic*.

Officer Jerry Smith told the Phoenix newspaper that the California-based company that conducts "Skill Bingo" takes in more than \$50,000 million for every \$150,000 in payoffs.

About 400 citations were issued and several arrests were made when 30 to 40 undercover DPS officers cracked down on alcohol and marijuana use during a Judas Priest concert May 4 at Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

DPS Sgt. Gamble Dick told area media that most of the citations and arrests involved teenagers.

May 1989

The DPS Crime Laboratory is expected to receive \$300,000 in new equipment that will allow it to conduct its own DNA testing rather than sending blood samples to outside laboratories for such profiling.

Once the equipment arrives, the DPS Crime Lab will be able to complete the DNA profiling process instead of turning it over to an outside laboratory.

May 1994

Shortly after midnight May 27, Highway

Patrol Officer Mike Bynaker became involved in an bizarre, frightening shooting on I-10 near Quartzsite after stopping to check on an abandoned vehicle.

While checking the vehicle, Bynaker realized he was not alone and that there was a strange object moving about in the darkness. He quickly realized the object was actually a nude man.

When Bynaker asked the man what he was doing, the man raised his arms over his head and began growling and running toward the patrolman. Bynaker pepper-sprayed the suspect and then struck him several times with his expandable baton.

The suspect was unfazed by the countermeasures, however, and continued to attack, eventually wrestling Bynaker's expandable baton away from him. Seconds later, as the suspect made another charge towards Bynaker, the patrolman fired two rounds at the suspect from his Sig Sauer .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol, hitting him with both shots.

Despite all this, the suspect appeared to be completely unfazed. He ran towards Bynaker's patrol car and opened the driver's door.

Bynaker kicked it shut pinning the man's right hand in the door jam. Eventually, Bynaker was able to gain control of the suspect and cuff him.

The suspect was taken to a hospital where he was treated and released for his wounds. The man was not on drugs or alcohol, but had been under psychiatric evaluation for most of his life. He was eventually released to his parents.